

ULM Common Core Curriculum:

Final Draft

(Revised 21 July 2004)

FOUNDATION COURSES

(Supervised by the *University Core Curriculum Committee*)

As many of the undergraduates entering ULM are uninitiated to the demands of higher education, it is imperative that they are provided a strong academic foundation on which to build their future college careers. The proposed *Foundation* mimics many national trends. While not unique, it is somewhat of a departure from the current situation at ULM. Ultimately, this structure brings a much needed breadth and commonality to the ULM academic experience and makes it easier for students to transfer between majors.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

6 Hours

English 101 and either English 102 or English 103

NOTES:

The goal of the introductory composition courses listed is to encourage the development of proficiency in writing. Therefore, it is recommended that students enrolled in English 101 be required to write a total of at least 2500 words, not counting revisions. Students taking English 102 or 103 should be required to write a total of at least 2500 words (not including revisions) which will include at least four essays; in addition, a research paper of 5-6 pages is required.

Also, so that writing can be more efficiently taught in the first-year composition classes, the committee recommends that the university consider restricting the class sizes of 101, 102, and 103 to 22 students per class.

HUMANITIES

9 Hours

Six hours must be taken as a sequence of two courses in either Literature or History. The remaining three hours must be taken in the other discipline's alternative field (i.e. a student must have at least one course in either the U.S. or the World area).

English 203-204 (World)

English 205 – 206 (U.S.)

History 111-112 (World)

History 201 – 202 (U.S.)

(Examples: American Literature 205-206 + World History 112, World Literature 203-204 + U.S. History 201, etc.)

NOTES:

The goals of the Humanities courses listed are to encourage an understanding of the literature, history, language, culture, and belief systems of nations and to improve the written and oral skills of students. Thus, it is recommended that all of the courses listed require that a minimum total of 1500 words per semester be written, not counting revisions.

Also, so that the development of writing skills will continue in each of the Humanities classes, the committee recommends that the university consider restricting the following class sizes:

ENGL 203, 204, 205, and 206 – 25 students

HIST 111, 112, 201, and 202 – 35 students.

The committee also recognizes the need for a general expansion and strengthening of the Humanities. To this end, the committee recommends that the University seek to increase its faculty and offerings within this area at the earliest opportunity. Additionally, given the increasingly global nature of our society, ULM should consider implementing a university-wide foreign language requirement at the earliest opportunity.

<p>FINE ARTS ELECTIVE 3 Hours</p> <p>One of the following courses is required:</p> <p>Art 109 Art 201 Art 202 Art 411 Dance 301 Music 170 Music 191 Music Education 335 Theater 191</p> <p>Note: Art 411 and Music Education 335 are for Elementary Education majors only.</p>	<p>NOTE:</p> <p>Fine arts courses help students understand and appreciate visual art, drama, and music. Students learn about the creative process and the nature of art. Each fine arts course should include first-hand experiences with works of art, music, or theater.</p>
<p>MATHEMATICS 6 Hours</p> <p>Six hours of approved mathematics classes from the 100 level or higher. The classes must be selected from the following list:</p> <p>Math 111 Math 112 Math 113 Math 114 Math 116 Math 118 Math 131 Math 132</p>	<p>NOTE:</p> <p>Students can not use both Math 114 and Math 131 to satisfy the mathematics core requirement. Students may not use both Math 111 and Math 113 to satisfy the mathematics core requirement. Students may not use both Math 112 and Math 113 to satisfy the mathematics core requirement.</p>

<p>NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE 9 Hours Six hours must be from an approved sequence of two courses in either biological or physical science. Three hours must be from the other area.</p> <p>The following are suggested physical and biological science courses which may be used to satisfy the BOR requirements. Courses may be taken in the sequences shown.</p> <p>Biological Sciences: Biology 101; 110 Biology 120; 122 Biology 114; 115</p> <p>Physical Sciences: Atmospheric Sciences 101; 102 Chemistry 101; 102 Chemistry 107; 108 Geology 101; 102 Physics 203; 204 Physics 207; 208 Physics 201 Physical Science 101; 102</p> <p>Integrated Science 101; 102; 103; 104</p> <p>Note: Integrated Science courses are for Elementary Education majors only.</p>	<p>NOTE: Although the committee did not increase the number of natural science hours included in the core beyond those required by the Board of Regents, as a body we believe that the laboratory experience is important for all students. We therefore encourage the University to explore the possibility of offering more laboratory experiences. If lab resources should become available in the future, the committee recommends the addition of two lab hours to the core science requirement.</p>
<p>SOCIAL SCIENCE 6 Hours Six hours of approved Social Science courses are required. Three hours must be selected from each of the following two lists, but the two selections <i>must</i> represent different disciplines.</p> <p><i>Group I:</i> Economics 103 Geography 101 or 102 Government 101 Sociology 101 or 102</p> <p><i>Group II:</i> Economics 201 Psychology 201 Government 201 Anthropology 207</p> <p>Note: Psychology 201 and 203 or 205 may be used to satisfy this requirement for Education majors.</p>	<p>NOTE: <i>Group II</i> courses insure the Board of Regent's requirement that 3 hours must be at or above the 200-level.</p>
<p>TOTAL FOUNDATION HOURS</p>	<p>39 Hours</p>

ULM Core Curriculum Guidelines

1. All *Foundation* requirements must be completed before taking the Capstone course.
2. No course used to fulfill University core curriculum requirements may be taken Pass/Fail.
3. The student's work in a major or minor may count toward meeting the University Core.
4. Transfer students can apply equivalent hours earned at other universities to meet ULM core requirements (equivalency to be determined by the appropriate department head and the Board of Regents' *Statewide Student Transfer Guide and General Education Articulation Matrix*).
5. Transfer credit will not be accepted for the Capstone requirement.
6. All freshman students are required to take the *Freshman Experience* for one credit hour (the course will not count toward any degree program and will be non-transferable).
7. The *Freshman Experience* course will ensure that the Board of Regents' requirement for computer literacy is met.
8. In the absence of a compelling reason, degree programs should refrain from defining or limiting student choices within the menu of prescribed general education courses.
9. ETV courses may not be used to satisfy core curriculum requirements.

Recommendations for the Implementation of the Capstone Experience

1. Estimated Faculty Resources:

1,000 students annually / 30 students per class = approx. 33 sections annually

Faculty teams (2 instructors) will teach either a minimum of 2 approved capstone sections annually (1 Fall + 1 Spring or 1 Summer I + 1 Summer II) or a maximum of 4 approved capstone sections annually (2 Fall + 2 Spring or 2 Summer I + 2 Summer II)

Fall Semester = 14 sections (7 original courses x 2)

Spring Semester = 14 sections (Same course continued from Fall)

Summer I = 2 sections (1 original course x 2)

Summer II = 2 sections (Same course continued from Summer I)

*32 sections taught annually by 16 faculty

2. Faculty Incentive:

Participation in Capstone courses should be included within the criteria for Tenure & Promotion, Yearly Departmental Evaluations, and in all Merit Pay Scales.

An award for outstanding Capstone course might be presented during Honors Week...small cash award + certificate/plaque.

To help alleviate staffing pressures, Capstone courses should be taught within a faculty member's regular teaching load. For calculating teaching load however, 1 semester hour of a Capstone course should be equivalent to 1.5 course load hours. This formula will provide overload pay (based on current rank) for every two Capstone sections that a faculty member teaches. This formula could be simplified by paying instructors an established rate for teaching Capstone courses (Example: 2 Capstone Sections=\$2,500.00).

3. Governance:

To insure the academic integrity of both the Capstone Experience and the supporting general education requirements, a standing *University Core Curriculum Committee* (responsible to the Office of Academic Affairs) should be established to administer these areas. As the core should be somewhat dynamic, this committee will be charged with the evaluation of all future changes within the curriculum. Also, each Fall Semester the committee will be responsible for both establishing a Capstone theme for the following academic year and for evaluating course proposals for the following academic year.